

U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Station Atlantic City, New Jersey

USLSS Station #27, Fourth District
Coast Guard Station #123



Location:	1939: East end of Atlantic City, N.J., at entrance to Absecon Inlet, and 1/16 mile north of Heinz Pier; 39-22' 00" N x 74-24' 50" W
Date of Conveyance:	1849
Station Built:	1853
Fate:	See "Remarks" section below

Remarks:

In 1871 the station was moved about 300 yards to a plot of ground close to the Absecon Lighthouse site. This plot belonged to a Robert R. Leeds who wanted more for the site than the government was willing to pay. In 1872 Captain Fannce and Merryman selected the Absecon Lighthouse as the logical place for the station. Permission to located the station at the site selected was given by a

Lighthouse Board Letter of 16 October 1872. In 1938 a new site on the north side of Clam Creek was given to the Coast Guard by the city of Atlantic City for the purposes of erecting both a station and boathouse. This is the present site of Coast Guard Station Atlantic City. The old sites comprising the parcels and structures, constituting the major portion of the former Absecon Lighthouse Reservation was turned over in 1946 to the War Assets Administration. The WAA assigned the surplus property to the National Housing Agency for disposal.

Station Atlantic City

The Coast Guard Station Atlantic City was constructed in 1939 and it was dedicated by Rear Admiral Russell R. Waesche, Commandant of the Coast Guard, on 4 August 1941. At the time of the dedication, it was purported to be the largest Coast Guard Life Boat Station in existence. It is strategically located at the junction of Clam Creek and Absecon Inlet, where Coast Guard vessels have protected moorings; yet immediate access to the Atlantic Ocean.

Local archives indicate that the first government boathouse in the area was constructed in 1849. In 1871, a regular crew was established for the four winter months and the station was moved about 300 yards to a plot of ground close to the Absecon Lighthouse site. This plot belonged to a Robert R. Leeds who wanted more for the site than the government was willing to pay. In 1872 Captain Faunce and Captain Merryman selected the Absecon Lighthouse as the logical place for the station. Permission to located the station at the site selected was given by a Lighthouse Board Letter of 16 October 1872. In 1884, a larger station was built at the base of the lighthouse. The manning of this station was extended to ten months of the year in 1894. In 1908, the Secretary of the Treasury purchased a site located at 416 Carson Avenue, which served as the Atlantic City Boathouse until the present facility was constructed.

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Significant Events:

March 1982: Station Atlantic City received the Coast Guard Unit Commendation for meritorious service from 4 to 8 January 1980 in support of the rescue and salvage operations which resulted from the grounding of the barge *Michel F.* near Little Egg Inlet, New Jersey. The 300-foot barge laden with nearly three million gallons of Number 6 fuel oil, grounded in heavy surf at the entrance to the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge, trapping two crewmen on board.

Keepers, OICs & Commanding Officers:

1853: Ryan Adams was appointed in 1853. It is unknown when he left the service.

1856: Samuel Adams was appointed in 1856. It is unknown when he left the service.

17 January 1862: Barton Gaskill was appointed on JAN 17, 1862 and left the service in 1876.

28 March 1876: Purnell Brown was appointed on MAR 28, 1876 and left the service in 1879.

29 August 1879: Amasa Bowen was appointed on AUG 29, 1879 and resigned due to physical reasons on SEP 15, 1893.

28 October 1893: Timothy H. Parker was appointed on OCT 28, 1893 and was reassigned to Absecon on APR 18, 1905.

14 April 1905: Lambert Parker was appointed on APR 14, 1905 and was still serving in 1915.

13 May 1982: Lt. Eddie V. Mack, the Atlantic City Deputy Group Commander, relieved CWO4 John A. Tolejko as Commanding Officer, Station Atlantic City.

19 July 1991: LT Thomas K. Richey replaced LT William E. Lee.

Photographs:



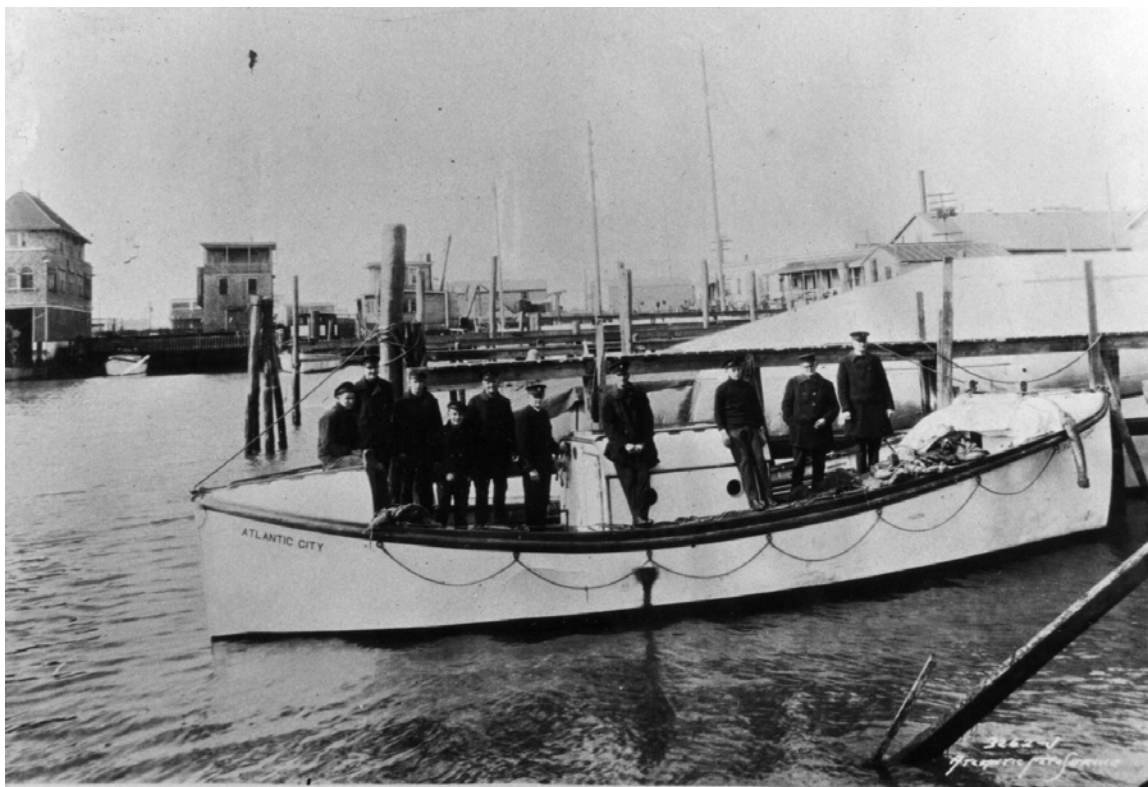
No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown. Probably 1930s.

Courtesy of Van Field.



"Atlantic City [;] Vermont Ave." No date/photo number; photographer unknown.

Courtesy of Van Field.



No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.

Atlantic City's MLB and crew. The MLB pictured here is the 36-foot Type H motor lifeboat No. 1608, which was built in 1920 and was later retrofitted with a forward survivors cabin (these Type Hs were then re-classified as HRs for H-Revised).

Photo courtesy of Van Field; MLB information provided by Tim Dring.



No caption/date/photo number; photographer unknown.

Atlantic City's crew. Courtesy of Van Field.

Sources:

Station History File, CG Historian's Office

Dennis L. Noble & Michael S. Raynes. "Register of the Stations and Keepers of the U.S. Life-Saving Service." Unpublished manuscript, compiled circa 1977, CG Historian's Office collection.

Ralph Shanks, Wick York & Lisa Woo Shanks. *The U.S. Life-Saving Service: Heroes, Rescues and Architecture of the Early Coast Guard*. Petaluma, CA: Costaño Books, 1996.

U.S. Treasury Department: Coast Guard. *Register of the Commissioned and Warrant Officers and Cadets and Ships and Stations of the United States Coast Guard, July 1, 1941*. Washington, DC: USGPO, 1941.
